

Message Text

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ORIGIN OC-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CCO-00 PER-01 MMO-01 SP-02 /016 R

DRAFTED BY OC/EX:DWULLRICH:DJH

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R 272158Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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ACCRA FOR RCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, UV

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN ADDITIONAL C&R POSITION
IN OUAGADOUGOU

1. THE INSTALLATION OF THE WATTS RADIO FACILITY IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. FULLY QUALIFIED RADIO OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED TO OPERATE THE COMPLEX RADIO-TELETYPE (RATTY) EQUIPMENT. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT BACK-UP PERSONNEL, WITH LIMITED TRAINING AND BACKGROUND IN COMMUNICATIONS, CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO PERFORM THE RELIEF FUNCTION FOR HIGHLY SKILLED RADIO-TELETYPE COMMUNICATORS. THUS, AT WATTS INSTALLATIONS WITH ONE C&R POSITION, THE COMMUNICATOR WOULD BE COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE POST RATTY FACILITIES 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. IT IS FELT THAT THIS SITUATION WOULD CAUSE AN UNDUE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL

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BURDEN FOR ONE PERSON. ADDITIONALLY, POST COMMUNICATION

CAPABILITY COULD BE SERIOUSLY DEGRADED DURING AN UNEXPECTED ABSENCE, DUE TO ILLNESS FOR EXAMPLE, OF THE RADIO OPERATOR.

2. AF/EX HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT POST WORK-LOAD, INCLUDING THAT GENERATED BY CONTINUING AID BUILDUP, MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO KEEP TWO COMMUNICATORS FULLY OCCUPIED; AND THAT THIS LACK OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON MORALE.

3. POST IS REQUESTED TO WEIGH VARIABLES AND ADVISE IF YOU CONCUR IN ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL POSITION. KISSINGER

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